

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-54 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 25, and 26 are independent claims. Claim 5 has been cancelled and new claims 46-54 have been added. Claim 25 has been withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

Application in Condition for Allowance

Applicants respectfully submit that the present response, which removes Burghardi et al. as prior art against the present application, places all of claims 1-4 and 6-54 in condition for allowance. **In the event the Examiner's next communication is not a Notice of Allowance, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned to schedule a personal or telephonic interview.**

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-17, 20, 22-24, 26-27, 29-30, 34, 37-38, 40, 43, 46-48, and 50-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Burghardi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0041413). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to a certified copy of Applicants' Swedish priority application 0400047-7 dated January 13, 2004, which is in English. As this Swedish application was filed in English, a translation is not required. Applicants respectfully submit that this application establishes Applicants' date of invention of at least January 13, 2004, which predates the earliest possible effective date of U.S. Patent Publication 2006/0041413 to Burghardi et al, which is July 29, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of this rejection, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-17, 20, 22-24, 26-27, 29-30, 34, 37-38, 40, 43, 46-48, and 50-54 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-9, 35-36, and 44-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Burghardi et al. as applied to claims 1 and 26 above, and further in view of Beck (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0000457). In light of the above remarks in connection with the §102(e) Burghardi et al. rejection, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-9, 35-36, and 44-45 is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-19, 31-33, and 41-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burghardi et al. as applied to claims 1 and 26 above, and further in view of Birk (U.S. Patent No. 7,308,866). In light of the above remarks in connection with the §102(e) Burghardi et al. rejection, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-19, 31-33, and 41-42 is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burghardi et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Palmer (U.S. Patent No. 4,517,923). In light of the above remarks in connection with the §102(e) Burghardi et al. rejection, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 28, 39 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burghardi et al. as above. In light of the above remarks in connection with the §102(e) Burghardi et al. rejection, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17 and 21 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-4 and 6-54 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/pw

Enclosure: Certified Copy of Swedish Patent Appln. No. 0400047-7 (filed in English)